

**FRIENDSHIP ASPIRE ACADEMY ARKANSAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Board Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

**Location: Friendship Aspire
Academy Little Rock
Elementary Campus**

CALL TO ORDER (In Person)

The meeting was called to order at 1:12 pm. A quorum was established.

Members Present: Jeffrey Pulliam, Chris Bell, Chad Froud

Members Absent: none

Guests/Staff Members: Phong Tran, Virginia Henry

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel issue and the motion was upheld.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

Minutes for the October 18, 2022 meeting were reviewed. On a motion by Chad Froud and seconded by Chris Bell the minutes were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Superintendent Tran stated the letter grades for each Friendship campus: FAALR Elem – C, FAALR MS – D, and FAAPB – C.

Superintendent Dr. Tran reported that at the November 10 State Board of Education meeting, the ADE recognized Friendship Aspire Academy Pine Bluff as a bronze level R.I.S.E. community. ADE recognized six partnerships statewide that demonstrated the benefit of school / community collaboration while building a strong culture of reading.

Our Friendship Aspire Academy Little Rock Elementary campus was recognized as a school on the Move Toward Excellence by DESE. Schools on the Move Toward Excellence recognizes Arkansas schools who make significant progress on their Public School Ratings and ESSA School Index Reports.

Testing will occur in January and results will be shared with the board once received. We are providing turkeys again to our families in need. The FAAPB Downtown campus will have a ribbon cutting on Dec. 6. The Friendship Aspire Holiday Party will be December 16 at the Brandon House Event in Little Rock.

FINANCE REPORT: Financial documents were provided and Dr. Tran narrated information. Revenue was received later than expected from the state due to the consolidation of the LEAs and subsequent accounts. Board member Chris Bell mentioned October bonuses and Dr. Tran explained those were recruitment and retention bonuses provided by CSL Achieve for teachers and school leaders.

ACTION ITEMS / BOARD BUSINESS:

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- ESSER Retention Bonus – 615,000 total / 5k for full-time employees & 2.5k for part-time employees.

Discussion: C. Froud – if staff left, how would you get the money back? Dr. Tran reported it would be collected from outstanding paychecks. Dr. Tran further explained that half of the year has already gone by, and the likelihood that staff would leave at this point is slim. C. Bell explained ESSER money was meant to be spent and legislators wanted to stimulate the economy. Therefore, the money should have already been given to staff to stimulate the economy. On a motion by Chris Bell and seconded by Chad Froud the action item was approved.

FINAL REMARKS – The next meeting date will be December 20, 2022 in Pine Bluff at the Friendship Aspire Academy Downtown Pine Bluff campus.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no other business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:48 pm.

Minutes Recorder: Virginia Henry